

White, R. W., Gillon, K. W., Black, A. D. & Reid, J. B. 2002. *The distribution of seabirds and marine mammals in Falkland Island waters*. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough.

Addresses: Sebastián Jiménez, Proyecto Albatros y Petreles—Uruguay, Centro de Investigación y Conservación Marina (CICMAR), Av. Giannattasio km 30.5, C.P. 15008 Canelones, Uruguay; Dirección Nacional de Recursos Acuáticos, Recursos Pelágicos, Constituyente 1497, C.P. 11200, Montevideo, Uruguay, e-mail: jimenezpsebastian@gmail.com. José Abente, Aves Uruguay, Canelones 1164, Montevideo, Uruguay, e-mail: jabente@disgal.com.uy. Adrián B. Azpiroz, Laboratorio de Genética de la Conservación, Instituto de Investigaciones Biológicas Clemente Estable, Av. Italia 3318, C.P. 11600, Montevideo, e-mail: azpiroz@iibce.edu.uy. Christian Savigny, Birds of the Southwest Atlantic & Antarctica Project, Mar del Plata, Argentina, e-mail: chris_savigny@yahoo.com.ar. Martín Abreu, Proyecto Albatros y Petreles—Uruguay, Centro de Investigación y Conservación Marina (CICMAR), Av. Giannattasio km 30.5, C.P. 15008 Canelones, Uruguay, e-mail: petrelatlantico@gmail.com

Missiemuseum, Steijl, the Netherlands—the history of a little-known collection

by Justin J. F. Jansen

Received 26 February 2012

The Missiemuseum at Steijl, which contains c.1,200 ornithological mounts / skins, is not mentioned by Roselaar (2003) but deserves a place among his 'B-list' collections. On 8 September 1875, Father Arnold Janssen (1837–1909) inaugurated the Societas Verbi Divini (SVD) in response to the anti-Catholic *Kulturkampf* policy pursued by the Prime Minister of Prussia, Otto von Bismarck, in 1871–78. The first foreign mission was established at Hong Kong (1879), followed in 1882 by China's Shandong Province, or Qingdao (leased from China by Germany in 1897–1914) and in 1884 by Kaiser-Wilhelmsland, part of German New Guinea, a protectorate of the German Empire. Further missions followed in Italy (1888), Argentina (1889), Austria (1892), Togo (1892), Ecuador (1893), Brazil (1895), USA (1895) and Papua New Guinea (1896). No fewer than 47 other countries followed up until 1993.

One of the aims of the SVD was to found a museum, to provide the public with knowledge of the countries and cultures in which the Societas worked. The collection's nucleus dates from 1884 when Janssen started the Missiemuseum, financed by Monsieur von Anzen, with anthropological and natural history items from China, among them birds. It was housed in two small rooms by the mission's printing shop. The last new material was purchased in 1937. Unfortunately, specimens were neither registered nor labelled. Information concerning them has been kept in numerous papers, held in storage in the museum's attic, thus with some effort many could be adequately labelled, thereby meeting the criterion set by Roselaar (2003) of 100 well-labelled specimens for 'B-list' inclusion.

Initially, Janssen was responsible for the collections, then P. Schaaf (fl. 1885–94), but when in February 1894 the museum was enlarged Schaaf resigned. He was succeeded by Hermann auf der Heide (1865–1930) and taxidermist Philo Maier (fl. 1894–1901); Maier resigned in 1901. Thereafter, Johannes Giessen (1868–1935), known as Father Berchmans, was appointed collection manager, collaborating with auf der Heide. After the latter died, P. Schmitz (fl. 1935) and then P. Balkenhol (fl. 1935–37) became the museum's taxidermists. On 1 February 1931 the museum moved to its present location, with Berchmans responsible for furnishing the new museum. At present (2012) the Missiemuseum is administrated by Missiehuis St. Michaël, but has not expanded its natural history collections. Since Berchmans' death in 1934 very little concerning the displays has changed. The museum can

be visited daily; all mounted specimens are on display, with a few skins held elsewhere in the building.

Material at the museum came from foreign-based missionaries or via purchases and exchanges. From papers held at the museum, it is clear that natural history items were acquired not only for the museum, but more especially for trade purposes, to expand and finance foreign missions. Material was received in exchange or by purchases from companies like that of Wilhelm Schlüter (1828–1919) at Halle an der Saale (Germany) and from captive-held birds at Allwetter Zoo, Münster (Germany) and Castle Broekhuizen (Arcen, the Netherlands). Private collectors included Franz Werner (1867–1939) from Vienna, who sent specimens from Brazil and Togo in 1925. An important purchase was (part of) the Merkelbeek collection (the Netherlands), at public auction in December 1937. Merkelbeek's collection contained material from the monastery of the Benedictine Confederation of the Order of Saint Benedict at Merkelbeek, which in 1923 was moved to the Sint Benedictusberg abbey at Mamelis, Vaals. In 1910 the collection of Johannes Renier Joseph van der Harten (1852–1925) was purchased; it contained material collected by Willem de Greef (b. 1863), Cornelus Notten (1847–1911) and Willem Lodewijk Joost Spoor (1827–93). The collection of D. W. Jansen (fl. 1900–12) from Arnhem was purchased in December 1906 and those of Carolus Roncken (1871–1944) and J. L. Wielders (fl. 1920–21) before 1931. Specimens were also traded with German missionaries, e.g., in Drieburg, Geilenkirchen, Neuenkirchen and Wengerohr, and exchanges also occurred with the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden (176 specimens) and Zoölogisch Museum Amsterdam (unknown). Among active missionaries were Franz Bartels (1889–1928) and Ludwig Klapheck (1868–1931) at Qingdao, Friedrich Girards (1875–1935), Hermann auf der Heide (1865–1930), Franz Kirschbaum (1882–1930) and Andreas Puff (1879–1939) in Kaiser-Wilhelmsland, and P. A. Müller (fl. 1907–08) and Wilhelm Schmidt (1868–1954) in Brazil. Unknown at present is how much of each collection remains, due to the lack of a register. However, most of the van der Harten collection is still present.

Plumes from birds-of-paradise, Dwarf *Casuaris bennetti* and Northern Cassowaries *C. unappendiculatus*, and Victoria Crowned Pigeon *Goura victoria* found their way via the missionaries to the Missiemuseum. For example, between October 1910 and June 1912 some 143 Victoria Crowned Pigeons and 626 birds-of-paradise passed via the museum to be sold. This is c.10% of all Paradisaeidae exported during this period from Kaiser-Wilhelmsland (Swadling 1996), although the Missiemuseum is not mentioned in the latter work.

My research provided additional information on some specimens (all of which still lack labels). The collection holds a number of rarities, and the main focus was on these and their data. Specimens of Slender-billed Curlew *Numenius tenuirostris*, Spix's Macaw *Cyanopsitta spixii* and Chinese Crested Tern *Sterna bernsteini* can be singled out. The Slender-billed Curlew was collected on 5 December 1888 at Zierikzee (51°38'59"N, 03°54'59"E) and was the second record for the Netherlands (de Graaf 1893). The Spix's Macaw was collected in Brazil but lacks collecting data. The Chinese Crested Tern is from Jiaozhou Bay (36°07'24.44"N, 120°14'44.3"E), and arrived on 24 July 1909 at Hamburg, Germany, in a collection of 131 bird skins formed by Franz Bartels and Josef Klapheck. Dutch rarities include a Greater Spotted Eagle *Aquila clanga* collected on 5 November 1892 at Weert (Vliet *et al.* 2005), a Middle Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos medius* taken on 15 February 1922 at Blerick, a Great Bustard *Otis tarda* dated 10 February 1922 from Wijlre and two Pallas's Sandgrouse *Syrrhaptes paradoxus* (an adult female and young female) from Zeelst, near Eindhoven (the sole inland record during the 1888–89 invasion). For Germany, an Atlantic Puffin *Fratercula arctica* collected on 12 January 1907 on the Rhine near Emmerich represents one of the country's very few inland records.

Acknowledgements

P. J. Leader, R. P. Prÿs-Jones, G. M. Kirwan and D. R. Wells reviewed an early draft, and my sincere thanks are due to them. Truus Coppens provided access to the Missiemuseum during seven visits (2005–11).

References:

- de Graaf, H. W. 1893. Letter. *Ibis* (6)5: 150–151.
Roselaar, C. S. 2003. An inventory of major European bird collections. *Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.* 123A: 253–337.
Swadling, P. 1996. *Plumes from paradise: trade cycles in outer Southeast Asia and their impact on New Guinea and nearby islands until 1920*. Papua New Guinea National Museum, Boroko.
Vliet, R. E. van der, Laan, J. van der & CDNA 2005. Rare birds in the Netherlands in 2004. *Dutch Birding* 27: 367–394.

Address: Ravelijn 6, 5361 EJ Grave, The Netherlands, e-mail: justin.jansen@gmail.com

Bulwer's Petrel *Bulweria bulwerii* in Brazilian waters

by Samantha R. Klein, Nicholas W. Daudt & Leandro Bugoni

Received 5 March 2012

Bulwer's Petrel *Bulweria bulwerii* has a pantropical distribution, breeding on islands in the North Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans (Megysi & O'Daniel 1997, Onley & Scofield 2007). In the Atlantic it breeds on the Azores, Madeira, the Desertas, Selvagem Grande, the Canaries and Cape Verdes, with a total population estimated at >11,000 breeding pairs (Brooke 2004). Atlantic breeders spend much of the year at sea, moving south and south-west to tropical latitudes, reaching 40°S and even South Africa (Carboneras 1992, Bourne 1995, Megysi & O'Daniel 1997, Flood & Fisher 2011), and north to 40°N (Bourne 1995, Legrand *et al.* 1999). Limits in the North Atlantic are based on records off the eastern USA, Caribbean Sea and Netherlands Antilles (French 1973, Haney & Wainright 1985, Legrand *et al.* 1999, Howell 2012), with vagrants off Ireland (Alibone 1980), continental Europe and in the Mediterranean (Flood & Fisher 2011). The species' distribution in the Atlantic was mapped in Flood & Fisher (2011), based on unpublished results from data loggers provided by J. González-Solís.

The at-sea distribution of Bulwer's Petrel in the South Atlantic potentially includes Brazilian waters. Van Oordt & Kruijt (1953) mentioned the species as 'rather common' and 'regular' off north-east Brazil between 31 December 1951 and 4 January 1952, and provided max. daily counts of six, nine, nine, five and 12 birds. They travelled from the Caribbean to South Africa and during this period crossed between Fernando de Noronha and São Pedro e São Paulo, within the Brazilian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Their southernmost record was one bird at 21°16'S, 09°30'W, midway between South America and Africa on 9 January (van Oordt & Kruijt 1954). Similar data were provided by Harris & Hansen (1974), who made a transect from north-east of São Pedro e São Paulo to south-west of Fernando de Noronha (while travelling from Europe to Uruguay) in October–November 1973. They recorded daily maxima of three, 15, 20 and 42 birds, the last just south-west of Fernando de Noronha. Bourne & Curtis (1985) mentioned 24 records in 1982–84, with up to eight birds in a day, all between 06°–39°S and 17°–37°W, in December–February. Bourne (1995) provided additional records, most between 10°N and 10°S and mentioned 'many records' in north-east Brazil during the boreal autumn, i.e. the post-breeding period. More recently, one was seen in Brazilian waters on 19 February 1999, 157 nautical miles (nm) south-west of São Pedro e São Paulo (Naves & Vooren 2000). These undocumented records suggest the